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Poles to Review U.N. Aide's Case

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UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 31 — The Polish Government has privately promised an early review of the case of Alicja Wesolowska, the United Nations employee arrested in 1979 during a visit to her homeland and sentenced to seven years on charges of spying, officials here have disclosed.

The promise has raised hopes that the 36-year-old woman will be granted clemency. Some officials believe she could be free within two months.

The pledge for a review of Miss Wesolowska's situation was given by Ryszard Frelek, the Polish delegate, at an unannounced meeting Tuesday with Eric Suy, the United Nations legal counsel. Neither would discuss the talk, but others familiar with it revealed the substance.

The Polish delegate was reported to have assured Mr. Suy that Miss Wesolowska's case would be examined on humanitarian grounds and given serious consideration.

Earlier this month Secretary General Kurt Waldheim sent an appeal for clemency to Henryk Jablonski, the Polish chief of state. Mr. Waldheim's letter followed reports that Miss Wesolowska had begun a hunger strike to protest her conviction. She is being held at Rakowiecka Prison in Warsaw.

The case has aroused great concern

among United Nations staff members, who regard her arrest as a threat to the immunity promised to international civil servants. Employees here have held several demonstrations on their colleague's behalf.

United Nations officials have stressed, however, that her fate may depend on the ability of the Polish authorities to conduct their review without appearing to yield to outside pressure.

Miss Wesolowska was a secretary with the United Nations Development Program. She returned to Poland for a brief vacation in August 1979, while on her way to an assignment in Mongolia.

As she was about to leave, Miss Wesolowska was arrested on unspecified charges and held for seven months. In March she was taken before a military tribunal for a closed three-day trial. United Nations pleas for the right to have an observer present were rejected.

The Polish Government announced that she had been found guilty of spying for "a NATO power," reportedly an allusion to the United States.

The present condition of Miss Wesolowska is a matter of dispute. Polish authorities have told officials here that they believe she is in good health. But some of her friends say they have been told she is being forcibly fed.